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Missile, by Richard C. Cross, United Press International

"A CIA reassessment of the Soviet SS-19 intercontinental missile has concluded that the nuclear-armed weapon is less accurate and poses less of a threat to the U.S. missile force than first believed, administration sources said Friday. But, the Pentagon's Defense Intelligence Agency disagrees with the CIA re-evaluation, contained in a secret report known as the National Intelligence Estimate that is prepared annually by the CIA.

"'We believe the CIA view is completely wrong,' a Pentagon official said of the assessment, speaking on condition he not be identified. We believe the CIA analysis is based on incorrect assumptions. They've made a mistake. We are convinced the CIA is wrong and will be proved wrong over time.' The Pentagon calculates the Soviet Union has deployed 360 of the six-warhead SS-19s, which the U.S. intelligence community previously characterized unanimously as having the capability to destroy U.S. Minuteman missiles in their silos . . . The CIA re-evaluation of the SS-19's capabilities first was reported by Michael Gordon in Friday's issue of the weekly National Journal magazine. Administration sources confirmed the account . . .

"A Pentagon official said the revised CIA estimate ' did reduce' the estimated accuracy of the SS-19 warhead, but he declined to go into detail. But U.S. officials suggested the reassessment largely was valueless because there is widespread disagreement in the intelligence community that the SS-18 is sufficiently accurate to knock out all 1,000 Minutemen. The Pentagon estimates the Soviets has deployed 308 SS-18's. 'Even if they're right,' a Pentagon official said, 'it doesn't make any difference because the Soviets have enough to cover all of the hard targets in the United States,' without the SS-19 . . .